

Message Text

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ACTION AEC-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 OES-02 FEA-01

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 RSC-01

CU-02 EB-04 AID-05 SWF-01 AGR-05 IGA-01 INT-05 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 /083 W
----- 078771

R 121630Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8792

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 8262

DEPT PASS AEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, CI, US

SUBJ: US/CHILLE NUCLEAR COOPERATION

REF: A. BA 8053; B. STATE 242543; C. STATE 244825

1. SUMMARY: CHILE DESIRES CLOSER COLLABORATION WITH US
IN SEVERAL ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FIELD. GIVEN IMPORTANCE
TO US TRADE INTERESTS, AEC SCIRPE RECOMMENDS THAT COOPERATION
BE INCREASED WHERE POSSIBLE AND OFFERS CERTAIN SPECIFIC
SUGGESTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AEC SCIREP APPRECIATES REF C WHICH PROVED VERY USEFUL
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IN MEETING WITH CCEN PRESIDENT RAUL CONTRERAS FISCHER. GEN

CONTREREAS BEGAN DISUCSSIONS BY REPEATING STATEMENTS HE SAID HE HAD MADE TO ACDA TEAM TO EFFECT THAT CHILE-US NUCLEAR COOPRATION IN RECENTTIMES HAD BEEN ESSENTIALLY ZERO. HE CITED INSTANCES WHERE CHILE HAD SOUGHT FUEL FOR LA AGUIERA (THEN ARMY) RESEARCH REACTOR AND OF DONATION OF REMAINING FUEL FOR LA REINA REACTOR AND HAD BEEN TOLD BY IAEA, AND/OR BY US REPS THAT CHILE MUST FIRST SIGN NPT. CHILE HAD THEN TURNED ELSEWHERE AND FOUND FRANCE WILLING TO SUPPLY LA AGUIRRE, REQUIRING ONLY IAEA SAFE-GUARDS (WHICH CHILE WILLINGLY AGREED TO) AND SPAIN WILLING TO BUILD REACTOR. (COMMENT: WHILE CONTREREAS USED ABOVE IN FORM OF COMPLAINT, MOST OF IT WAS PERHAPS INEVITABLE IN VIEW US LEGAL RESTRICTIONS ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH MILITARY; ARMY'S INITIATIVE FOR LA AGUIRRE, WHICH BEGAN DURING TENSE ALLENDED PERIOD; AND GENERAL TENDENCY IN CHILE AND ELSEWHERE IN LATAM FOR MILITARY TO BE INVOLVED IN MORE CIVILIAN-TYPE ENDEAVORS THAN IN US OR EUROPE. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, SUPPLY OF FUEL BY FRENCH WAS PROBABLY OPTIMUM SOLUTION. SCIRPE FULLY UNDERSTANDS AND SUPPORTS GOOD INTENTIONS OF US REPS TO GET CHILE AND OTHER NON-PARTIES TO NPT TO ADHERE TO TREATY, AND IS AWARE OF STATEMENT RE US TECH ASSISTANCE BEGINNING IN 1975 MADE BY CHARMN RAY AT GEN CONFERENCE. NONETHELESS, HE URGES US MISSIONVIENNA TO BE CAUTIOUS ON STATEMENTS PROVIDED TO COUNTRIES LIKE CHILE IN THAT SOME OF THE THINGS SUCH COUNTRIES SEEK MAY NOT PROVE POSSIBLE EVEN IF THEY ADHERE TO NPT, AND SOME DAY THEY MIGHT CALL OUR BLUFF. WE SUSPECT, ALSO THAT CONTREREAS QUOTES SUCH STATEMENTS MADE TO CHILEAN REPS SOMEWHAT OUT OF CONTEXT.

3. SCIREP WAS INFORMED THAT CHILE HAS RELUCTIANTLY PAID THE ADDITIONAL \$61,000 TO THE IAEA TO BUY REMAINDER OF LA REINA FUEL, AND HAS RECEIVED RECEIPT FROM IAEA.

4. DISCUSSION MOVED TO POSSIBLE INCREASED BILATERAL COOPERATION, WHICH CCEN VERY MUCH DESIRES. RE POWER REACTOR, JOINT CCEN-ENDESA COMMITTEE REPORTEDLY NOW MOVINGTOWARD 600 MW (E) REACTOR FOR OPERATION IN 1985, TO BE FOLLOWED BY OTHERS. TRAINING REMAINS CCEN'S PRIME CURRENT NEED, AND BOTH FELLOWSHIPS AND VISITING PROFESSORS ARE DESIRED. SCIRPE MENTIONED IAEA AS BEST AVAILABLE CHANNEL FOR OBTAINING MOST OF SUCH HELP FORM US (UNDP IS PROVIDING FUNDS TO IAEA FOR USE IN NUCLEAR FIELD IN CHILE).

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5. ON FOOD IRRADIATION, CCEN INTERESTED IN KEEPING AEC LOAN IRRADIATOR, BUT EXPRESSED NO PARTICULAR PREFERENCE RE "ABANDON IN PLACE" VS INDEFINITE LOAN EXTENSION. THEY ALSO GREATLY INTERESTED IN BUILDING LARGER MULTI-PURPOSE IRRADIATION FACILITY. PRESERAVATION OF POTATOES REMAINS CCEN'S TOP PRIORITY IN THIS FIELD. SCIREP MET WITH USAID DIRECTOR IN SANTIAGO AND HAS SUGGESTED TO CCEN THAT IT DISCUSS POSSIBLE USAID INTEREST IN

THIS PROJECT DIRECTLY WITH USAID.

6. CCEN HAS CREATED NUCLEAR MEDICINE INSTITUTE, BUT AGAIN NEEDS HELP VIA FELLOWSHIPS AND VISITING PROFESSORS. SCIREP SUGGESTED IAEA AS BEST CHANNEL, AND ALSO NOTED RELATIVELY ADVANCED PROGRAMS IN ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL, WHICH MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SOME HELP.

7. CCEN VERY PLEASED TO HEAR NEWS THAT US FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO PROVIDE COST FREE EXPERTS THRU IAEA IN FOOD IRRADIATION AND NUCLEAR MEDICINE FIELDS (REF C).

8. ON URANIUM PROSPECTION, CCEN HAD RECENTLY HAD VISIT FROM CAMERON OF IAEA WHOM, THE SAY WAS FAIRLY OPTIMISTIC ON CHANCES FOR FINDING IMPORTANT DEPOSITS IN CHILE. ADDITIONAL US EXPERT AT IAEA EXPENSE UNLIKELY TO BE REQUESTED. GREAT NEED NOW IS FOR SYSTEMATIC AERIAL AND TERRESTRIAL SURVEYS. SCIREP NOTED THAT THERE WERE COMPANIES IN US WHICH COULD PROVIDE SUCH SERVICES. CCEN CONSIDERS ITSELF TO BE IN PROSPECTION PHASE OF 3-PHASE PROGRAM, AND DOES NOT WISH GET MINING COMPANIES INVOLVED UNTIL 2ND (EVALUATION) AND 3RD (EXPLOITATION) PHASES.

9. INFO PROVIDED REF C ON ENRICHMENT POLICIES WAS USEFUL, BUT WAS NEEDED ONLY SLIGHTLY IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CCEN AND NOT RPT NOT WITH OTHERS PRESENT.

10. REFTEL DISCUSSES LA REINA REACTOR INAUGURATION.

11. COMMENT: AS CHILE MOVES TOWARD NUCLEAR POWER, IT WILL BE INFLUENCED IN WAY IT TURNS BY ATTITUDES SHOWN TOWARD IT IN ALL TYPES OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION. AS DEPT AWARE, SOME EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS BETTER EQUIPPED THAN WE TO LOOK AT ENTIRE PICTURE AND
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PROMOTE GOOD RELATIONS WITH RIGHT PEOPLE. IN CHILE'S CASE, SCIREP BELIEVES IT VERY MUCH US TRADE INTEREST TO DO ALL IT CAN TO WIN ORDER FOR 1ST POWER STATION FOR US COMPANY. IT WOULD APPEAR AT THIS POINT THAT OUR POTENTIAL COMPETITORS ARE FROM GERMANY, UK, CANADA, AND PERHAPS FRANCE AND SPAIN. WE UNDERSTAND FROM FAIRY ENG REP THAT HIS FIRM PREPARED OFFER SCHEMES AT SIZES FROM THAT OF PROTOTYPE (100 MWE) ON UP. EARLY WARNING SHOULD BE ISSUED TO APPROPRIATE US FIRMS. FURTHER, EVERY POSITIVE STEP WHICH CAN BE TAKEN TO DRAW CHILE CLOSER TO US IN NUCLEAR MATTERS WILL BE HELPFUL AND IN PARTICULAR SCIREP URGES AEC TO MAINTAIN FAVORABLE DISPOSITION EXPRESS IN REF C, AND EMBASSY SANTIAGO TO CONSIDER (A) AID SUPPORT FOR FOOD IRRADIATION PROGRAM IN CHILE, AND (B) A LEADER GRANT FOR US VISIT BY GEN. CONTRERAS.
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